

Appl. No. : 10/681,472
Filed : October 8, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action transmitted May 16, 2007, please reconsider the above-identified application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner allowed Claims 33 and 36-42. However, the Examiner withdrew Claims 20-32 and Claims 43-53 as drawn to a non-elected invention.

All Claims Ready for Allowance

Applicants have cancelled withdrawn independent Claims 20 and 45, as well as Claims 21, 31, 32, 46, 48, 49 and 51-53 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the cancelled subject matter in future applications.

Applicants have amended several of the remaining withdrawn claims so that such claims depend from Claim 33, which has been allowed. These claims depend from allowed Claim 33, and are allowable at least based on the limitations recited in such parent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner restore Claims 22-30, 43, 44, 47 and 50, and that these claims be allowed in addition to the already-allowed claims.

New Claim

New Claim 54 has been added to more thoroughly recite subject matter that Applicants consider to be part of the invention. This claim depends from allowed Claim 33 and recites additional patentable subject matter. The cited references do not teach or suggest all the limitations of new Claim 54. Accordingly, Applicants contend that this claim is currently in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance.


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Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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